

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A socket for an electronic package, comprising:

a cover and a base slidably joined with one another;

a sliding cam assembly driving said cover relative to said base, said cam assembly positionable between open and closed positions corresponding to open and closed positions of the cover with respect to the base; and

a bias element directly contacting the cam assembly to force the cam assembly to a fully open position when the cam assembly is moved from the closed position.

2. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said cam assembly comprises a bias element stop surface.

3. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said base comprises a cam assembly pocket, said cam assembly pocket comprising a bias element engagement surface.

4. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said cam assembly is adapted for linear displacement relative to said base when actuated, said bias element exerting a force on said cam assembly to locate said cover in the open position.

5. (original) The socket of claim 1 wherein said bias element is a helical spring, said spring located between said cover and said base.

6. (currently amended) The socket of claim 1, wherein said base comprises a bias element seat, said cam assembly comprising a bias element seat, said bias element seat of said base and said bias element seat of said ~~cam~~ cam assembly surrounding said bias element.

7. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said cam assembly comprises pusher bars extending from a body, said bias element displacing said body relative to said base, said pusher bars displacing said cover relative to said base.

8. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said cam assembly comprises a cam lobe portion and a bias element engagement shoulder extending from said cam lobe portion, said bias element contacting said bias element engagement shoulder.

9. (original) The socket of claim 1, wherein said cam assembly comprises a bias element seat, said bias element seat comprising an open end and a bias element engagement surface opposite said open end.

10. (original) The socket of claim 1, further comprising a rotatably mounted lever comprising a cam element lobe, said cam element lobe contacting said cam assembly as said lever is rotated, said bias element contacting said cam assembly to maintain said cam element lobe in an open position when said lever is rotated from a closed position.

11. (currently amended) A socket for an electronic package, comprising:

a cover and a base slidably joined with one another and being movable relative to one another along a longitudinal axis between an open position permitting loading of the electronic package into the socket and a closed-positions position engaging the electronic package to the base;

a sliding cam assembly engaging and moving said cover and base between said open and closed positions;

a rotatably mounted lever configured to engage said cam assembly when said lever is rotated about a rotational axis aligned parallel to said longitudinal axis; and

a bias element seated between said cover and base and engaging said cam assembly to prevent partial opening of said cover relative to said base.

12. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said cam assembly comprises a bias element stop surface, said bias element engaged to said stop surface.

13. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said base comprises a cam assembly pocket, said cam assembly pocket comprising a bias element engagement surface.

14. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said cam assembly is adapted for linear displacement in a direction perpendicular to said longitudinal axis when actuated, said bias element exerting a force on said cam assembly to displace said cover relative to said base.

15. (original) The socket of claim 11 wherein said bias element is a helical spring, said spring located between said cover and said base without contacting said lever.

16. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said base comprises a bias element seat, said cam assembly comprises a bias element seat, said bias element seat of said base and said bias element seat of said cam assembly surrounding said bias element.

17. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said cam assembly comprises a cam lobe portion and a bias element engagement shoulder extending from said cam lobe portion, said bias element contacting said bias element engagement shoulder.

18. (original) The socket of claim 11, wherein said cam assembly comprises a bias element seat, said bias element seat comprising an open end and a bias element engagement surface opposite said open end.

19. (currently amended) A socket for an electronic package, comprising:

a cover and a base slidably joined with one another and being movable relative to one another along a longitudinal axis between an open position for loading the electronic package and a closed-positions position;

a sliding cam assembly engaging and moving said cover between said open and closed positions, said cam assembly adapted for linear displacement in a direction perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a rotatably mounted lever configured to engage and displace said cam assembly when said lever is rotated about a rotational axis aligned parallel to said longitudinal axis; and

a bias element extending between said cover and base without contacting said lever, said bias element exerting a force upon said cam assembly to ensure that said cover is in an open position relative to said base when said lever is actuated to open the socket.